



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

New Bar Owners Uncork Their Plans

By Jeff Kaliss

If you want to do business, it seems you couldn't do better than to open a neighborhood bar. Surely, there have been bars just about as long as there have been neighborhoods, and Noe Valley is no exception.

Maybe that's why our two newest bar owners, Nancy Baker and George Kouloulis, exude an air of confidence as they look forward to the soon-to-be grand openings of Patch County and Zorba's. And why William Murphy, who owns what was once Finnegan's Wake, feels certain that "the institution of a bar will be perpetuated" at that location, 4054 24th St.

Murphy, who considers himself "the local historian" of Noe Valley saloons, points out that the neighborhood has always supported successful drinking establishments, including his own Murphy's Irish Inn, which featured live broadcasts of "Irish sing-song music from the heart of the Noe Valley, at the bottom of Twin Peaks." He's already had several offers for the former Finnegan's, but before he lets anyone in he wants to "cosmetize" the space.

Down the block, George Kouloulis has been busy with more than cosmetic work. When Salonicas, the site's former occupant, closed last spring, "everything was rotten" by Kouloulis' assessment: pipes in the primitive bathrooms were busted and the bar was sitting on top of a deposit of mud and water. Kouloulis proceeded to rip out the bathrooms, sop up the floor, lower and soundproof the ceiling, and redesign the "dead" area at the rear of the building. "I want to make my customers happy *before* I make money," he claims.

Nancy Baker did not find massive renewal necessary when she bought Patch County, at 25th and Church Streets, from former owner Richard Greenberg last month. It was already the kind of "laid-back neighborhood bar" she'd been looking for, but had failed to find in "body shops" like Churchill's and Major Pond's (which are also up for sale).

Baker decided to retain Patch County's name and most of the staff, and was able to take over without interrupting business, thanks to a 45-day temporary license. Greenberg simply moved his liquor stock and one bartender (Laura) to the bar which bears his name (O'Greenberg's) at the corner of Dolores and 29th Streets.

Until recently, Greenberg also owned Noe's at 24th and Church, but he now feels that "more than one bar is too much to handle . . . and I'm not getting any younger." His failure to secure an entertainment license (he was considering a comedy series at Patch County) also influenced his decision to sell.

Baker may go as far as remodeling Patch County's bathrooms "to make them a little more private," and to put cafe

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Photo by Martin Klimek

You need not live by bread alone when there are fresh baguettes to be had, here delivered to Bakers of Paris by driver Shine. On page 13, photographer Martin Klimek introduces you to some other folk who bring us what we want and need.

World Security Council: Peace Activist Aims High

By Ann Rovere

Perhaps the freshest and most promising approach to the prevention of nuclear war is being developed by a Noe Valley neighbor. Ken Largman, 35-year-old student of weapons systems and space technology, heads an organization called the World Security Council (WSC). His private, non-profit, non-governmental group, which includes scientists, military officials, and weapons contractors as well as peace activists, is working to develop a multi-national agreement coordinating lasers and particle beam systems to prevent nuclear war.

Before you shout "That's Reagan's Star Wars," understand that Largman's plan promotes a *worldwide* defense system; in other words, space satellites employed to automatically destroy nuclear missiles would be built and monitored jointly by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, along with other participating nations.

How did Largman arrive at this ambitious plan? From his high school days in the '60s to the dawn of the Me Decade, Largman was active in the peace movement. His life revolved around ridding the world of the prospect of nuclear holocaust. He quickly observed, however, that no matter how much people

demonstrated and held vigils, the missiles kept getting built. Governments entered into agreements to ban weapons, but as soon as it was in their vested interest to break the pacts, they would.

No less than 6,000 meetings to ban weapons systems have taken place since 1945 between the U.S. and U.S.S.R., and to date not one single weapons system has been eliminated. According to Largman, this pattern of failure has existed since the invention of the cross-bow.

Largman's idea for the World Security Council was to try a different approach to arms control—one not based on trust and breakable promises. "If it would be possible to coordinate U.S. and Soviet computerized laser systems *before* they were built, and videotape every aspect of the construction, the lasers could be programmed to shoot down any nuclear missile or bomber launched by any nation," Largman reasoned. The very existence of a multi-national anti-missile system would serve as a major deterrent to nuclear war.

A largely self-educated man, Largman quit college in 1970 to start his own construction business as a means of financing the project. He spent his even-

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Ghouls Just Wanna Have Fun

By Bill Yard

Halloween is a holiday in transition. Originally part of an autumnal Celtic festival steeped in spirituality, the eve of All Saints' Day emigrated to the United States with the Irish, whose younger generation usurped the holiday as an occasion to make sanctified mischief. Kids continued to dominate the dusky hours of Oct. 31 well into the 20th century.

There are signs, however, that the pendulum is swinging back to the big people. Adults *and* children celebrate Halloween now, in Noe Valley and elsewhere. Even as our kids, weaned on Jedi and MTV, cast jaded eyes at mutilated pumpkins, their folks welcome the kind of right-brain catharsis a night of Halloween devilment can provide.

Childhood's Odds and Ends

Aside from taking your trick-or-treating tykes on hikes, you can let them creep through one of the local haunted houses. Once again a group of neighborhood organizations will sponsor a "Fun and Safe Halloween" program at the Noe Valley Ministry. Coordinator Marilyn Lucas forecasts that on Oct. 31 part of the sanctuary at 1021 Sanchez St. will mysteriously convert to a dastardly dungeon replete with all manner of slimy surprises. Ghoul-oriented youngsters can tour the premises from 4 to 5:30 and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Those who forget to girdle their progeny with garlic are advised to inspect their necks after the tots leave the Haunted House.

Noe Valley's annual costume parade departs the Ministry at 5:30, returning later for entertainment and treats. Musicians, dancers and a puppeteer will materialize to enrapture those waiting to enter the Haunted House, or those lucky enough to escape it. (To help with this year's festivities, call Lucas at 282-4562 or co-coordinator Barbara Hopkins at 285-2648.)

Meanwhile, down at Jamestown Community Center, 180 Fair Oaks St., goblin spokesperson Larry Streeter promises "the best haunted house in town." On Oct. 31 a crew of recently exhumed volunteers will convert the premises into seven ghastly chambers, wherein neighborhood kids may roam from 6 to 9 p.m., provided they're between 5 and 12 years old and have 50 cents to enter the intensive scare unit. Later, watch for a "Ghostbusters" revue to be staged, along with other vile entertainment still in the planning. If you're a mummie dearest who'd like to help out, phone 647-6274.

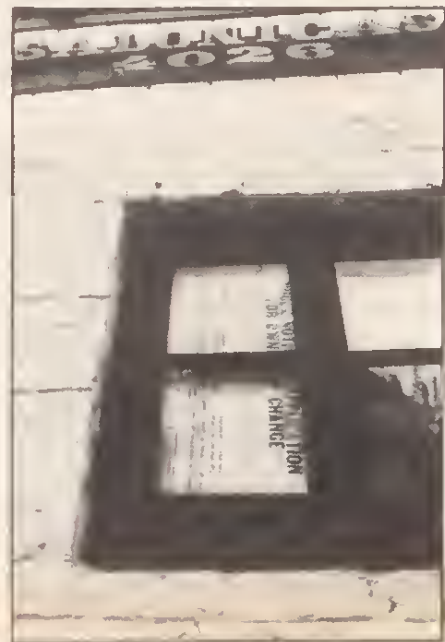
Preceding these neighborhood events, the San Francisco Children's Fair takes over Fort Mason Center on Oct. 27 and 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There'll be a costume parade, magicians, mimes, jugglers and puppeteers, as well as a hands-on computer, art and science exhibits, children's crafts, and everybody's favorite fair fare, food.

Once your kids have made it through these Halloween festivities and are crash-

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Since landlord William Murphy shut the door at what was Finnegan's Wake, he hasn't changed a thing but the lock. But he's sure there will soon be a new saloon in the space.



The former Salonicas will have a new name (Zorba's), a new owner, and a new look when it opens in a few weeks. Live music should mix well with the drinks.

• New Bars •

Continued from Page 1

curtains on the windows for a similar reason. Eventually she'd like to add a fireplace and art exhibits in the back area presently occupied by pinball and video games. In this cozy atmosphere her "young, fairly educated" customers will munch on piroshki, hot links, Polish sausage, and Eagle Snacks, with free chili, pizza, or spaghetti during televised sports events.

She may also add some oldies like the Kingston Trio, Sinatra and the Platters to the Police, Pretenders and Prince already on the jukebox. Thus she can cater to the tastes of her older daytime customers who "like to play dominoes and toddle home for dinner." But she has no interest in pursuing an entertainment license. With experience at Haight Street's Shady Grove, she has come to regard musicians as "a bunch of weirdos."

Kouloulis, a native Greek like Salonicas' late owner Vasily Christodoulou, wants to see his Zorba's filled with a mixture of live jazz, country 'n' western, and other music. In fact, he thinks there were "too many restrictions" on Salonicas' weekend performances. He expects to import pizza and hors d'oeuvres (and clientele) from the Haystack Restaurant, which he has operated for several years on 24th Street.

This sort of variety seems to be more a matter of proprietor preference than of survival. "Bars don't have to compete like restaurants do," Baker points out. "It's good to have different bars where different people can hang out. The more bars you have open, the more people the neighborhood draws."

Which is probably just the reason why the Friends of Noe Valley are considering speaking out against any new liquor license at the site of the former Finnegan's. Miriam Blaustein, former president of the neighborhood activist group, feels that such opposition "might be a chance to stay within the threshold" established for 24th Street's bars a few years ago by the city's planning department.



Photos by Charles Kennard

Patch County regulars may have taken notice of a red-haired woman tending bar: it's Nancy Baker, the bar's new owner, who hails from the Haight and plans to keep things pretty much as they were.

Murphy, however, feels that his building is sort of a shrine to the publican spirit and that he must "preserve it, cherish it, and revere it." He declined to say why he refused to renew Finnegan's lease. He even admitted, "They must have been good bar operators or they wouldn't have had the following they did."

Murphy does assert, though, that Finnegan's principal owner, Tom Frenkel, "had no reason to think he'd be entitled" to renew when his lease ran out in August. Frenkel himself claims that "Murphy was in good-faith negotiations with my attorney from early May of this year until July 31, at which time without warning he [Murphy] broke off negotiations six days before the end of the lease." Frenkel says he offered to double his rent to Murphy, but that the landlord responded only with a sale price for the building that was way beyond Frenkel's reach.

Whatever the truth of this troubled communication, the outcome is that Frenkel has two realtors looking for a spot for a new Finnegan's, some of his customers and bartenders have migrated to Bloom's on Potrero Hill, and Murphy is working on a "family decision" about what to do with the old space. "Sorrow is born in a hasty heart," says Murphy, "so I don't want to be hasty about this."

While Murphy ponders, the new Patch County and Zorba's will be christened in their respective styles. Baker's grand opening at Patch will feature champagne and free eats, but no live music. Kouloulis will mete out nibbles from the Haystack washed down with Greek music and betty-dancing. Inevitably, the happy herds will find their favorite watering hole.

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Love and the Finn

EDITOR:

Ten months ago I left San Francisco to pursue other dreams. While I am now realizing those dreams, I continue to miss San Francisco with a depth that most people would never understand. Finnegan's Wake I shall now miss the most. Finnegan's was the most important part of my "developmental" years. I never conceived that I would not be able to get off the airplane on my return to San Francisco and go straight to Finnegan's, order a white wine, and sit at the window and watch people walk up and down 24th Street.

So to all those people I would have been able to reunite with at Finnegan's, let me express my deep sorrow that our reunion will not take place there. I guess I must now say a fond goodbye to a life, a lifestyle, and people I loved so dearly. But I shall always hold those many hours spent at Finnegan's close to my heart.

All my love,

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- Oct. 17 **Occult: Mysteries of the Supernatural**—visits with a witch coven, seance session, astrologer and ESP expert.
- Oct. 24 **In Search of the Bermuda Triangle**—an exploration of disappearances of people and ships over the Bermuda Triangle.
- Oct. 31 **In Search of Ghosts**—documentation of an astonishing event of ghosts in a Maine fishing village.

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• Security Council •

Continued from Page 1

ings and weekends away from work, studying arms control, reading books, documents and publications he believes were not being read anywhere outside the Rand Corporation and the White House. As early as 1972, he read of laser beams, space-based kinetic energy, and particle beam systems, and realized the grave dangers facing the human race.

Largman spent a solid 3½ years flying around the country in a three-piece suit, attending military conferences, basically keeping his mouth shut, listening and learning. The conferences, generally attended by military planners and weapons contractors, were open to the public, but the public did not normally go. Largman wine and dined officials and contractors and scientists, continually repeating who he was and why he was there and assuring his guests that he wasn't a Communist spy.

At first his suggestion that the U.S. and U.S.S.R. work together on a coordinated defense system was met by incredulity and repugnance. But more specific ideas such as having weapon-free zones and uniform inspection of satellites found wider support.

"I wasn't trying to block them or get them to renounce their values," says Largman. Instead, he approached military officials by promoting the need for a strong defense against the possibility of an accidental or intentional nuclear attack by the Soviet Union or other nations of nuclear capability. He learned that, overall, the military was as concerned as the rest of the world about the threat of annihilation and wanted realistic solutions to the problem.

Largman was relatively successful at gaining entry to the military establishment, but attracting a board of directors for his World Security Council proved a major hurdle. No one dared take the initial step. One general responded to Largman's invitation by pointing to the stars on his shoulder and saying, "Do you know how many years it's taken me to get all those stars, and I should join you, one individual starting some organization that's going to be looked at as crackpot by most of the country? I'll help you all I can behind the scenes, but you can't use my name."

Finally, Largman got three scientists with outstanding credentials in the field to risk joining the board of directors. The first, Dr. Peter Vajk, a top scientist working with the Pentagon, had managed numerous national studies under contract to the Army, Navy and Air Force. Shortly after, Edward V. Stearns, president of the American Astronautical Society, joined the effort. He had been in charge of orbiting the first nuclear reactor in outer space and had experience in running a number of Lockheed weapons programs. Stan Kent, a younger but also well-respected scientist, completed the triumvirate of eminent missile researchers interested in world security.

In April, 1981, the World Security Council office opened in the World Trade Center building in San Francisco with \$800, cardboard boxes for chairs, telephones on the floor, no desk, no staff, no written proposals, and no organizational plan. Largman advertised in the *Chronicle* for staff for a strategic arms control organization, and Elinor White, an art student at the time, joined the group.

At the time, White was somewhat disenchanted with the U.S. peace movement herself. She considered it well-intentioned, but, by and large, ineffective. "A lot of groups out there want to speak to the military and defense contractors about preventing nuclear war. The problem is they are still in a very antagonistic position with the military. They're saying, 'Don't build weapons, you're wrong, and you're wasting your life.' As soon as you say that to someone, you turn them off and they don't hear another word you say."



Photo by Joel Abramson

Although Ken Largman, creator of the World Security Council, thinks the world is more than just a little neurotic, he still feels our better judgment can lead toward international cooperation.

She was attracted to the World Security Council idea because "it doesn't put anybody in the wrong. It says the world is the way it is right now, weapons are built because of overwhelming forces that are taking place in human society, and we need to take those forces and move them into constructive channels."

Over the years Largman and White, now 31, have worked so far beyond a normal 40-hour work week that 40 hours sounds like a light load to them. Their office still looks like that of a fledgling organization, but the World Security Council is growing healthy and strong and has received attention from over 700 military officials, corporate heads, international scientists and other experts in the field. Quietly and methodically, the group has improved its funding sources to the extent that it is heading toward an international conference and has plans to hire directors of research and marketing at \$80,000 and \$60,000 a year, respectively. But, according to Largman, the World Security Council would not have

been possible without the help of vast numbers of volunteers. "They're what makes this happen." He's found support from graphic designers, law students, advertising executives, printers, secretaries, and those in many other occupations representing both liberal and conservative camps.

A major accomplishment of the World Security Council is a 2,730-page analysis of the threats, vulnerabilities, and safeguards of space weaponry entitled "New Military Technologies and the Prevention of Nuclear War." Eventually Largman sees the document, now in its first draft, as expanding into an encyclopedia.

The wealth of highly organized information and expertise that has gone into this compendium is impressive. For example, the transportation system of space tugs and orbit-to-orbit vehicles is vulnerable in some of the following ways: destruction for financial profit, attack on life support systems, psychological warfare against personnel, poison

and drugs in the food supply, blockade and sabotage, to name a few. For each specific vulnerability, the document lists approximately 90 safeguards, among which may be joint construction, coordinated inspection, decoys, equal and simultaneous deployment, self-destruction, etc.

What happens if a laser malfunctions? "If a laser accidentally shot at a target on earth or another satellite, the rest of the system would be programmed to shoot it down," Largman says.

The WSC plan operates on the premise that some technology must be shared, but not so much that the respective militaries are uncomfortable. It proposes interlocking computer, communication and safeguard systems, as well as joint inspection teams and controlled deployment. All testing and launchings would have to be cleared through the system. And to discourage any tampering, the plan relies heavily on videotaping all construction and repairs and careful monitoring of each other's work.

Politically, the international agreement envisioned by the World Security Council stipulates that voting on crucial issues be by secret ballot to insure autonomy and freedom from influence and coercion. Representation in the collective body is on the basis of financial investment because "it accurately reflects military strength," says Largman. However, a ceiling is placed on the extent of the system any one nation can control. Once the "official" government of a nation has entered into the WSC plan, they are stuck with it and must abide by the rules. The agreement insists on total verification and enforcement of its tenets.

Largman is careful to say that the World Security Council will not put an end to all wars or change the nature of man. "We will never stop basement bombs," he says, and there will always be new technologies developing and new ways of cheating. He does believe, however, that the WSC agreement can significantly lower the probability of an all-out thermonuclear war.

Having achieved ample cooperation from the military, scientists and weapons contractors, he and White are now directing their efforts toward politicians and corporations. Senator Strom Thurmond recently requested that the Department of Defense review their work, and the U.S. Congressional Office of Technology Assessment has asked to look over the World Security Council plan. Efforts toward corporate involvement have yielded a conditional agreement from Guy F. Atkinson Co. of California, a billion-dollar construction firm, to co-sponsor international talks on the WSC document. The company's chairman of the board is also the first corporate head to join the World Security Council Board of Directors.

The ultimate test for the WSC, of course, will be the group's ability to cross the Bering Strait and gain the support and cooperation of Soviet counterparts. That journey officially begins with a Soviet specialists conference, followed by a mailing to 800 Soviets and various internationals. Next the Council will have to write careful translations of the technical document, set a neutral site for a conference, establish an ongoing U.S.-Soviet task force, and finally negotiate a multi-national agreement. Unofficially, the journey has already begun, with some informal communication with the Soviet government.

Largman realizes that the road to success may be long and arduous. He's aware that the world is "stark-raving mad, not just a little neurotic, but psychotic," and that people do crazy and terrible things to one another. Nevertheless, like Anne Frank, he still feels that people are basically good and that the flow of humanity and sanity can be shifted toward international cooperation. The World Security Council may be the biggest pie-in-the-sky idea he's ever had, but "it's amazing. It seems to be working." □

Common Scents

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The neighborhood has lots in store for walking squash this Halloween. There's a costume parade down 24th Street as well as a choice of haunted houses, at the Noe Valley Ministry and Jamestown Community Center.



Photo by Ed Buryn

Have a bite and a fright on Halloween night. This year's "Fun and Safe" program at the Noe Valley Ministry starts at 4 p.m. Oct. 31.

• Ghouls Have Fun •

Continued from Page 1

ing from all the sugar, it's time for them to ~~pick up~~ with a timely book. Our fiends at Cover to Cover on 24th Street recommend *Frankenstein's Aunt* by Alan Pettersson or *Bunnicula*. Deborah and James Howe's tale of a vampire rabbit. The bookstore also carries some nifty anthologies of adult hair-whiteners, including *Dark Company*, *Black Water* and *The Best of J. S. LeFanu*.

Speaking of costumes, the recent upsurge in grown-up Halloween shenanigans means it's best to shop early. Local sources of vintage, campy or just plain cheap threads include Look Sharp at 1431A Castro, and the big secondhand outlets like Salvation Army at Valencia and Army or Thrift Town at 17th and Mission.

For upscale makeup and costume plans, try Bob Mandell's Costume Shop at 1135 Mission, Fantasy Island at 186 Potrero, or Dance Art at 222 Powell. And variety stores like Glen Five and Ten on 24th Street and Cliff's at 18th and Castro will soon overflow with your basic party needs, from orange and black crepe paper to the kinds of rubber masks that make dermatologists take out malpractice insurance.

Oh, yes . . . the pumpkin. Serious squash freaks should undertake a Sunday drive to any of the mom-and-pop pumpkin farms lining Routes 1 and 92 near Half Moon Bay. And if you take your kids, don't forget the Instamatic. A snapshot of your toddler toting one of those humungous veggies is guaranteed to warm the blood of even your most distant Transylvanian relatives. □

Who Ya Gonna Call?

A lot of parents will want to leave the kids at home to hit the Halloween party circuit. Because this is a family-oriented neighborhood newspaper, we can't make specific recommendations of the type of dire, demented behavior in which you should engage once you get to the parties. However, it's only polite to provide your babysitter with entertainment befitting the night of Oct. 31. Why not stop by the local video shop and rent *The Shining*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *Zombie* or *Friday the 13th*? Then, for extra fun, quietly sneak in your back door, still in costume, an hour or so before you told your sitter you'd be home!

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Poets Resurrect Poe in Ministry Performances

By Larry Beresford

Edgar Allan Poe, the 19th century master of mystery and terror, is a perennial inspiration to the celebrants of Halloween. In stories such as "The Murders of the Rue Morgue," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Premature Burial," and the often-recited poem "The Raven," Poe defined the horror genre and created many of our favorite scary stories.

Poe's own lifetime was as frightful as his stories, filled with poverty, squalor, illness, alcohol abuse, and the untimely deaths of those closest to him. He himself died at the age of 40, four days after he was discovered in a Baltimore, Md., gutter on Election Day, 1849. Although the true circumstances of his death may never be known, it was said that Poe had been voting repeatedly for the Whig Party in exchange for drinks.

Two San Francisco poets, Sally Abbott and Kush, will explore the mysteries of Poe's life, writings and death, with original performance pieces on the Sunday before Halloween, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Kush, a poet, actor and coordinator of the Cloud House poetry series in various locations near Noe Valley, has written a piece called "The End Befallen Edgar Allan Poe," dealing with the events leading up to Poe's death.

"In my piece I play three characters," he explained, Poe and two caricatured political figures who seduce him with alcohol. Kush described his piece as a comedy in the tradition of the Renaissance Commedia dell'Arte style of theater. Playing off Poe's beauty and humor as a writer, as well as the tragedy of his life and death, Kush's performance should be an emotional challenge for the



Photo by Chris Del Sol

Sally Abbott, appearing with fellow poet Kush at an Oct. 28 Edgar Allan Poe program at 1021 Sanchez St., lends a feminist perspective to "The Fall of the House of Usher."

audience: "Are you going to laugh or cry?"

On the surface Poe's story is a sad one. His mother died when he was an infant, and his father had already disappeared. His stepfather was cold and distant and, though a wealthy man, had Poe removed from the University of Richmond at age 17 because of the youth's gambling debts. Poe's wife, Virginia, died at 23, 10 years after he married her, and he desperately searched for a woman

to replace her as well as his mother. Despite a prolific outpouring of works recognized as classics today, Poe wasn't appreciated during his own lifetime and struggled to support himself as a writer and editor.

Ironically, things were looking up for Poe when he went to Baltimore. "He had just completed a successful lecture tour

and finally was beginning to get recognition for his writing and literary theories," Kush explained. "He was returning to New York City to begin planning for his wedding."

On Sept. 27, 1849, Poe left Richmond, Virginia. On Oct. 3, "They found him in the gutter in a coma, in clothes that were not his own," Kush said. Four days later Poe died.

It's hard to see humor in the simple facts of Poe's life, but Kush's piece points to the irony of Poe's selling votes to corrupt politicians for the alcohol that was so dangerous to his health.

Abbott resurrects the spirit of Poe in a different manner. Her piece, which she also performed last Halloween at the Ministry, is a feminist retelling of Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher," a horrifying supernatural tale of premature burial. In rewriting Poe's story, Abbott has substituted a woman narrator, who comes to the Usher mansion to assist her friend Madeline, for Poe's male persona, who comes to help Madeline's brother Roderick. This adds some interesting feminist twists to the original story.

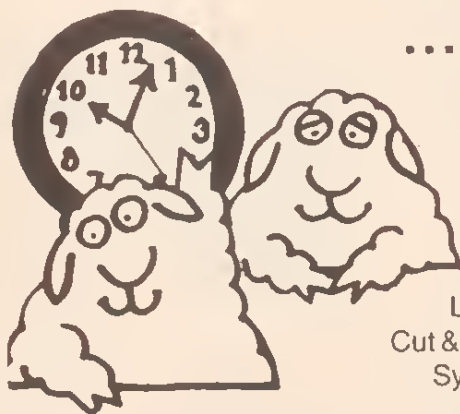
Abbott considers Poe a particularly appropriate Halloween subject because "his writing so successfully tapped into his own subconscious and into the universal subconscious. Halloween was a sacred day in the old pre-Christian, pre-patriarchal tradition. According to the tradition, Halloween is the time when the veil between our world and the spirit world is at its thinnest."

In her view, the creatures of the nether world have been trivialized as childhood spooks and goblins "rather than as powerful spirits."

Abbott is a poet, writer and teacher, as well as the coordinator of the Noe Valley Poetry series at the Ministry. Kush, in addition to writing and performing, teaches anthropology at New College of California. Both promise "an evening of transformations" when they perform their Poe pieces on Oct. 28. □

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Photos by Charles Kennard



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We Got Dem Ol' Streetcar Blues Agin. . .

Most commuters appreciate the fact that a ride on the J-Church is like a slow-motion roller-coaster. The streetcar affords a few cheap thrills and lots of expansive views as it winds its way through Noe Valley and Dolores Park.

But lately the J's been no fun. Why? Because as soon as the cars hit 18th Street (or Market, if you're traveling from downtown), they run into a Muni construction zone.

Since May 21, the cars have been operating on a single track on the stretch of Church between 18th and Market, which usually adds 5 to 10 minutes to

the commute.

What's going on is a \$1 million project to rerail the Muni Metro tracks and replace passenger islands on this quarter-mile segment of the J-line, which, according to Muni spokesperson Alan Siegel, had the "oldest existing rails in the Muni system" and was in dire need of repair.

While construction workers replace ties and rails on one section of track, J-cars are rerouted onto a device called a "portable crossover."

"These things were developed in the 19th century," says Siegel, and it's not

hard to believe. The unwieldy contraptions are set at both ends of an area to be rerailed, and the cars creak slowly up onto the temporary track while transferring to the other lane.

Because both inbound and outbound cars must wait their turn to cross over to the single track in use, the J commute will remain slow till the end of October, when the project is scheduled to be completed.

Muni apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these improvements to the rail system, but warns that more repair work, on a different part of the line,

is set to start this month.

This time, the fire department's "wet-stand pipes" in the Muni Metro tunnel between Van Ness and Castro will be repaired. All work will take place at night, after the evening rush hour. Though the details were yet to be finalized last month, Siegel expected that evening J riders would transfer to buses on Market Street for the trip downtown.

Stay tuned for the next episode of *As the J Lurches On*. □



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Clean-up Effort at Army Cliff Clears Way for Mini-Park

By Suzanne Scott

After three years of planning, the Friends of Noe Valley last month saw the results of a clean-up campaign on the steep vacant lot at the foot of Army at Noe Street. The city-owned land was basically an overgrown vertical wall of dirt and debris, says Miriam Blaustein, a Friends member who lives nearby. She added that people had seen rats in the area, which was often used as a dumping ground. Overgrown fennel and various weeds also caused safety problems by isolating houses and limiting the residents' view of the sidewalk.

The Friends now want to clear out the cliff-like area and eventually put in benches, lights and perhaps a zigzag path up the hill toward Castro Street. Several architects in the group have come up with landscaping plans which would not only create a useful shortcut into the Valley (and the 24-Divisadero bus line) and make the area safer, but provide a block-long mini-park with a spectacular view.

After months of pressuring the city to get to work on this area and two other hilly lots at Noe-Sanchez and Noe-Duncan, Blaustein called on the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) to come out and raze the weeds. SWAP offers physical labor instead of jail for drunk-driving offenders and first-time law breakers. "We go around the whole city cleaning streets, parks, painting out



Photo by Charles Kennard

The steep cliff at Army and Noe was recently cleared of debris by members of the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP). The Friends of Noe Valley hope to spruce up the area with a landscaped trail and native foliage.

grafitti, painting schools and health centers," says SWAP Deputy Steve Geracimos.

Geracimos said his team removed 40 trash bags full of weeds, broken bottles and other garbage from the neglected lot at Army and Noe in four days, and hoped to clear the entire area by the end of September. The Department of Public Works (DPW) was then set to haul out branches and other large debris. (Neighborhood groups can call SWAP at 864-9675 to request community projects.)

So what's next? That depends on neighborhood interest, the feasibility of building a park, and the cooperation of the city. Meanwhile, the first step is to plant shrubbery. DPW will probably be able to plant some standard, easy-growing foliage like ice plant, but will not develop the open space as a park.

The Army-Noe lot is at the end of a dedicated street, which means there is limited access, and according to Melvin

Peace Groups Seek November Voters

By Catherine Cambron

It has been estimated that one out of every five San Franciscans is not yet registered to vote. Polls reveal that Americans strongly prefer peace over war and negotiations and diplomacy over shows of force and stockpiling. Yet the primary means by which Americans can influence legislators in Washington to seek peace, the ballot box, is sorely underused.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan was voted into office by about a quarter of the potential electorate. In 1984, a coalition of groups in San Francisco is working to ensure that, this time around, more voters are educated about the issues at stake and express themselves with their ballots.

The NAACP, Human Serve, the Democratic Socialists of America, the San Francisco Nuclear Freeze, and the Bay Area Central America Peace Campaign, among others, have established a voter registration task force. Since September, the task force has been waging a campaign to register voters and educate them on peace and justice issues. The drive will culminate in a door-to-door effort by S.F. Nuclear Freeze and the Bay Area Central America Peace Campaign on Oct. 7, virtually hours before the registration deadline for the Nov. 6 elections.

Charlene Tschirhart of Nuclear Freeze says, "We are working to make the 85

percent of Americans who were polled as being in favor of a verifiable bilateral nuclear freeze into a solid and committed vote. Our voter registration and education work has stressed voting for candidates according to their stand on preventing nuclear war. This year that means that people's votes wouldn't be for Mondale and Ferraro per se, so much as for the freeze itself."

The Bay Area Central America Peace Campaign has a similar rationale. Central America activists are participating in the elections not only to have impact on the outcome, but to foster discussion about the role of the U.S. in Central America.

David Kaiser of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), a member of the Peace Campaign coalition, explains: "Many people aren't even aware that El Salvador's civilians are suffering 10 to 30 homing strikes daily—with U.S.-selected targets, U.S.-trained pilots, and U.S.-supplied bombs. We see registering people to vote as a good chance to get the message out and to encourage people to express their opposition to the war through voting and pressure on their congressional representatives."

To participate in this effort, call the Bay Area Central America Peace Campaign at 864-5955. □

Baker of DPW, it's been "officially approved and accepted for maintenance by DPW." But, Baker adds, DPW is "not in the business of building parks." The department is authorized to improve existing sites, such as installing benches at bus stops, but any park development falls under the jurisdiction of the city's Recreation and Park Department.

While Friends Vice President Jean Amos is happy to get the area clean for now, she has her eye on bigger and better things. "We'd love to make it a little more than just a landscaped area," she said. "After all, it's the entrance to Noe Valley."

Members of Friends are also willing to pitch in. They are looking into the possibility of planting trees and bushes native to San Francisco. Also, once the initial work is done, the group has promised to maintain it. "From Army and Noe down to Sanchez, the neighbors are ready and willing to volunteer," says Blaustein. "It's a community," she added. "That's the big thing for me."

Noe Valley residents are encouraged to share suggestions with the Friends of Noe Valley at a "Town Hall" meeting Oct. 3, 7 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. □

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Autumn Annual Art

Fall is finally upon us, and so is the Autumn Annual juried exhibition at the Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez St. Jurors Dorie Tuttle and Michael Bell have gone through submissions from Noe Valley and Mission District artists and will display their selections starting this Sunday, Oct. 6. (Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.) A public reception will be held Sunday, Oct. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m., and the exhibition runs through Nov. 18.

Catholic Carnival

The St. Paul's Parish Festival returns after several years' absence with a variety of food, features and fun at the Parish Hall at 29th and Church Streets from Friday, Oct. 5, through Sunday, Oct. 7. Dinner will be served from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, and you can find out more by calling Nancy Cori at 585-9757 or Father John Claherty at 648-7538.

October's Tunes

There are six tune-fun reasons for spending Saturday evening at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., this month. Five of them are the Mark Levine Quintet, which plays the Noe Valley Music Series on Oct. 13. Levine swings equally on jazz piano and trombone, and has surrounded himself with a gang of talented young Bay Area jazzmen, with whom he cut a successful disc on the Concord label.

Jim Scott, guitarist with the Paul Winter Consort, has been devoting his considerable talent to political causes, and comes to the series Oct. 20 with an exciting and relevant repertoire of instrumentals and songs. Both concerts start at 8:15 p.m.; call 282-2317 for details.

Photo by Joel Abramson

Love That Lasts

Myths will be exploded and horizons broadened at a conference on "Older Women and Sexuality" presented by Options for Women Over Forty at Ft. Mason Conference Center Oct. 20. The speakers, presenters, and facilitators (all trained sex educators) will take participants through a series of films, talks, panels, displays, and small group discussions covering this long-neglected topic. Eight hours of continuing education credit are available for registered nurses, and space is limited, so call Options at 431-6405 right away.

Come on Board

You've probably passed the new Community Boards office at 24th and Church

SHORT TAKES



A heat-hounded fairgoer takes a break from the live jazz, shish-ke-babs, crafts, beer, and rolfing demonstrations at the Noe Valley Street Fair Sept. 9.

and read in these pages about the Boards' success in mediating a variety of neighborhood disputes. Now you can become part of this process as Community Boards starts a new conflict resolution training program on Oct. 13. The training is offered free to those who agree to volunteer for a year, and you can find out more by attending an introductory session next Tuesday, Oct. 9. Call 821-2470 for the location and more information.

Join Your Friends

Sure, you'd like to have something to say about what will happen to this country for the next four years. But first, how about taking care of things closer to home

by attending the Friends of Noe Valley Town Hall meeting Oct. 3. You'll hear the Friends talk about their ongoing concerns, including establishment of a mini-park at Army and Noe Streets and a skateboard facility at Douglass Playground, and the implementation of protective zoning along the 24th Street commercial strip. Then you'll get to give your own ideas about the future direction of the Friends, which is the neighborhood's largest and most active non-commercial group.

All this happens from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., and it should build up an appetite for the Friends' Barbeque, which cooks up the following Sunday (Oct. 7) at noon, also at the library. To find out more about the Friends, call President Sonja Date at 285-5289.

Save Cold Cash

As temperatures drop, you can keep your heating bills from going up if you're eligible for two weatherization programs, based on your age and income. The Economic Opportunity Council can help you insulate your home or apartment free of charge, and you should call 641-1821 to find out if you meet the criteria.

Even PG&E will pay to make your place "weathertight," but funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so you'd better call Joy Stokes at 285-1825 before it becomes really chilly!

For Virtuous Volunteers

If you're not busy enough with politics this fall, how about volunteering some of that good energy for a good cause. For starters, San Francisco School Volunteers is ready to train folks for its "Math in Action" program, which teams up volunteers and teachers to provide small group experiences in math for second through fifth graders. The teacher-volunteer teams will receive training from professional consultants in cooperative problem-solving, prevention of math anxiety, and math content. There's an orientation on Oct. 10 and work in the classroom begins Oct. 15. Call Project Coordinator Laurel Robertson at 864-6136 if you're interested.

Or maybe you'd rather work with art or animals. The latter, especially those who are injured or too young to adopt, need foster parents. The SPCA will connect you with these needy pets, but they also need you to help care for the four-legged orphans at their shelter at 2500 16th St., to be a lost-and-found detective, to train as an animal behavior consultant, and to help promote the Animal Assisted Therapy Program (for people). Call the SPCA's volunteer coordinator at 621-1700.

As for you artists, you're needed by Volunteer Arts to organize art exhibits in public places, art education programs for youth, and performance visits to underprivileged groups. Musicians, photographers, dancers, painters, poets, graphic artists, actors and printmakers should contact David Roberts at 681-7454 or Stephen Rico at 931-9338.

Finally, Youth Aware would like you to help teach children the facts about alcohol before they begin experimenting with it. Designed by the National Council on Alcoholism, the program sends trained volunteers into San Francisco's elementary schools to present information in a neutral, factual, and objective way. Training has just begun, and you can call the Council at 563-5400 to catch up with it.

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—Searching for the Past in China—

Sweet and Sour Travelog

By Dave Knepler

Travel is in Harvey Varga's blood. It is his birthright. His father is a Pole who fled from the Nazis, only to end up in a Russian concentration camp for refusing all-but-certain military death. His mother left Rumania when that country too fell to Hitler's authority. She spent the remaining World War II years in a Soviet labor camp. It was in Tashkent, in the constituent Russian republic of Uzbekistan, that she first met her future husband.

They married, spending the next five years in a refugee camp in Germany. From there they emigrated to America, settling in the Jewish Orthodox Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, N.Y. Their son Harvey was born 33 years ago, and at age 16 he set off on his first adventure, a cross-country hitchhiking trip.

Varga settled in San Francisco 11 years ago, and for the last nine years he's been a Noe Valley resident. His Jersey Street flat is decorated with his own sculptures, reproductions of Jewish art, and now momentos from his latest adventure, a trip to mainland China.

The China trip was not only an excuse to visit a fascinating country, but Varga's chance to search for his tribal cousins, the Jews of China.

Before setting out on his five-week excursion last July, Varga added Mandarin to his repertoire of seven languages. He was already equipped with English, Hebrew, German, French, Spanish and Yiddish, which he teaches at the Jewish Community Center. After six months of sharpening his communication skills, he packed his bags, turned over his body and fender shop to employee management, and declared himself "ready for an adventure."

He carefully chose to fly to Hong Kong, where he knew that in 24 hours and with no red tape he could acquire what would have taken six weeks of American bureaucracy to issue—a visa to China. "Nobody has any problem in Hong Kong getting a visa," claims Varga. "Chiang Kai-shek could've gotten a visa."

On the two-hour hovercraft to Canton, China, Varga mused on what lay ahead. "I expected to walk into the 10th century," he said. But when he disembarked, he found himself faced with an array of transportation choices—buses, modern cars, motorized cabbie carts, and rickshaws.

Soon he was hopping aboard a boat gliding down the Li River, destined for the small town of Yang Shwo. His mind, 72 hours separated from the hustle of Mission Street, boggled at what he saw: "enormous outcroppings of mountains that spontaneously erupted and looked like enormous sticks," 1,000 to 2,000 feet high, jutting dramatically out of the water.

It was 106 degrees when Varga touched land again, in Yang Shwo. He regretfully eyed his bulky bundle of clothes. "All I needed was two undershirts and two pairs of shorts."

By a stroke of traveler's good fortune, Varga met two tourists from Hong Kong, struck up a conversation, and soon was awarded a treat afforded few Westerners. Due to the persistence of his newfound Asian friends and his own moxie, Varga became "the only white man" to stay in the Overseas China Hotel, one of a hotel chain reserved for traveling Chinese.

Three dollars got him a clean bed in a fancy room, furnished with all the amenities, including hot water, telephone and color TV. A quick tour around the



Photo by Charles Kennard

Harvey Varga found some unusual embroidered headdresses on a recent trip to China, but reached a virtual dead end on his search for a long-lost Jewish colony.

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dial revealed old American movies, lessons in English, and the Olympics. "Judging by their coverage," noted Varga, "you'd think that the Chinese were the only ones in the Olympics, because they were the only ones they covered." Ten thousand miles across the sea, Americans were saying the same thing about ABC's coverage of our athletes.

Over the next several days Varga began to learn the way of life in China. For example, his Hong Kong friends were embarrassed when he took off his shirt in public—it was better to roll up the bottom of his shirt about halfway and retain some modesty.

Varga's hairy chest, arms, legs, and beard were a source of constant amazement to the Chinese. Everywhere he went he was surrounded. "People would come up and brush their hand along my arm to see if my hair was like a dog's, cat's or monkey's, and they'd feel my beard."

Indeed, they would call him "Monkey." This, says Varga, was an indication of China's particular brand of racism. According to Varga, the Chinese see Caucasians as being farther back on the evolutionary scale than they are. The hairier you are, the more apelike.

"Black people," Varga was startled to learn, "are considered shaved monkeys" with very low intelligence. He cited the story of two young Afrikaans in Beijing. Although official guests of the Chinese government and recipients of scholarships to a Chinese university, they spent four years in the Chinese capital, shunned, isolated, lonely and disliked, all because of their color. "The Chinese would have nothing to do with them."

Varga quickly threw out his guidebooks, which he found to be useless. Information was outdated, maps were "dangerously wrong." All the Westerners seemed to have the same books. On the traveler's companion, *China: Off the Beaten Path*, Varga's only comment was: "The path was so beaten I was falling

into holes."

Every hour, every street corner, every conversation brought new knowledge and new mystery. Everywhere he went he saw "the signs and scars of the Cultural Revolution," but no one would speak of it. "It's not important" was the standard response.

One man did talk, confessing to helping spread the revolution by "hacking one guy to pieces." His deeds were well known to his fellow villagers, so he now cleaned rowboats for a living and shied away from his countrymen. His dream was to come to the United States, where his stigma would not follow him.

To most of the people Varga talked to, Mao Zedong remains a reverential figure in Chinese history. The Cultural Revolution is considered "one of the big mistakes towards the end of his life," but, says Varga, "everyone credits the man with taking China from a dirty whorehouse where everyone starved to a country that's got an agenda for modernization."

Modernization, however, brings its own set of problems. "The Chinese are not yet conscious of pollution. Everywhere the air stinks," Varga said.

And sometimes the evidence of "too rapid" change is shocking. Two of Varga's friends, while swimming, found a baby girl's body floating downstream. They grabbed the child and rushed to the shore in search of aid, but were met only with disinterested shrugs. When a hospital was finally located, the doctor's belated concern could not mask his initial "So what?" attitude.

The baby was dead, a victim of China's "population control" policies which penalize couples for having more than one child. The dead female amplified the credo that if you are going to be penalized anyway, at least have sons. Boys have more of a chance to be breadwinners in Chinese society.

"In 20 years," observed Varga, "China

Continued on Page 11



Wok cookery is always chic in Kunming, Yunnan Province.



A street scene in Kunming, China.

Photos by Harvey Varga



Here's Harvey Varga's snapshot of the pagoda in Kaifeng, the town once populated by a thriving Jewish community.

•Travelog of China•

Continued from Page 10

will be a country with all men and spoiled one-child families."

All told, Varga traveled an estimated 3,400 boat, plane, train, bus, foot and bicycle miles. He saw only two beggars, four Americans, and maybe 70 Westerners, with whom Varga conversed in French and German. To speak English was a prized asset among the Chinese, although very few could.

Kunming, Chengtu, Sian, Beijing—the miles rolled on, the experiences continued. There were visits to communes that impressed Varga with their provisions for the elderly. He observed that everywhere men seemed more capable of expressing physical affection with their children than their Chinese counterparts in Hong Kong or in America.

He claims that "the worst food I ever ate was in China. Also, the best food I ever ate was in China." Rice, vegetables, dumplings, eggs, dog meat, and shish-ke-bab were customary fare, with no meal costing more than a dollar.

And then there were the Chinese people with brown curly hair, light-colored eyes, and hook noses.

Kaifeng, 300 miles to the south of Beijing on the Yellow River, was home to China's once-thriving Jewish community for 1,400 years. But Varga's visit was perhaps 100 years too late. He had heard that there was maybe an old synagogue somewhere, but his questions drew blank stares or strong denials. "No more Jewish Chinese people," he was told. Varga pulled out a photograph of some old stones, said to be part of the cornerstone of the synagogue. A large crowd encircled Varga, all eagerly peering at the photo, but still insisting "no."

"I could tell that they were hiding," recalls Varga. Finally, one person said where he might find the stones.

The synagogue had long since been replaced by a hospital, and the stones were moved to a museum, he was told. Varga made his way to the museum site, but it had not yet been built. Instead

there were only broken down buildings. A man inside the ruins said, "Three more years before museum," but Varga just shook his head. It takes them 10 years to build even an outhouse, he thought, remembering Chinese newspaper articles decrying poor worker productivity.

The man would not let Varga explore the rubble. Instead he latched the museum's future curator, who consented to show Varga the cornerstones.

The Cultural Revolution had again left its mark. The stones were defaced. No Hebrew writing was left, no Jewish insignias showed. The stones were stripped naked of any identity. Varga was moved nonetheless, feeling "sadness that something was lost."

Next, Varga wandered down "The Street of the People Who Pluck Sinews from their Meat." This was the main street for Kaifeng's Jews. It is where they lived, sold their wares, and butchered their animals, from which they plucked the sinews to make the meat kosher. "Jews lived here," knew Varga. He could sense it. "There is a feeling that lingers on long after the people have gone."

Hoping that some descendants of this sect still lived in the town, Varga decided to play his last card. He pulled out a piece of paper containing the address of a man known to be a Jew. Unfortunately, this move came a few days late—when he got to the house, he was told the man had died earlier in the week.

Frustrated and dejected, Varga returned to his hotel and made plans to leave the next day. Shortly before departure time, he was walking down an aisle in a grocery store when he noticed them. They were Chinese, in their 50s, he estimated, but they were different from the scores of Chinese he had seen earlier in his trip. They had brown curly hair, greenish-blue eyes, and what Varga referred to as "large Jewish noses." The rest of their features were Chinese.

Once more there was frustration. They did not speak Hebrew, and Varga could not understand their Mandarin dialect. But the connection had been made. "Whenever you make contact with your own people," believes Varga, "there are

open avenues because you recognize an affinity."

Though their communication was stymied, Varga felt instinctively that the remnants of one of Judaism's most distinct sects were still alive in China. Surely the old scrolls and parchments had been passed along to family members still desiring knowledge of their roots and willing to take the risk involved. And behind some of the closed doors of "The Street of the People Who Pluck Sinews from their Meat," there were those who still practiced circumcision and maintained Kosher ritual. "They are Islamic," claimed the Chinese, but Varga knew better.

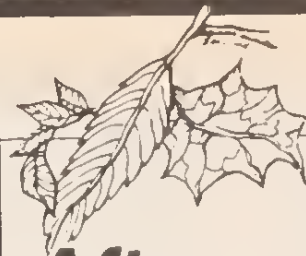
The mystery of how these Jews came to be in China still exists. Are they—were they—one of the lost tribes of Israel? Are the brown-haired Chinese whom Varga saw in the grocery store the descendants of Jews who left Jerusalem during the Babylonian Exile of 586 B.C., as Varga theorizes? Or are there even

more mystical beginnings, involving burning bushes and holy visitations?

Varga cannot condense his weeks of observations and experiences in China into one succinct answer. "It's too big," he maintains. "You can't sum up 800 million people."

And what of China's future? Given that it is home to one-quarter of the earth's population, "in 50 years China just might be the center of the world." Varga anticipates that China will enjoy an arts and music renaissance to match its industrial modernization, but wonders how Chinese society will deal with "its one highest fear—Western sexual mores."

The Chinese are turning back to religion. Buddhist shrines are reappearing, Christian churches are filling. But there is little evidence that Judaism, too, will make a comeback in China. It is left to wandering Jews like Varga to find and preserve, at least in our memories, the precious heritage that was lost. □



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POLITICS

going to be a reagan stamp
one of these days
old man tells me at
gino and carlo's bar
in between my second and
third drinks

you can't beat these damn
politicians
he says
but reagan will be
patient
he's going to be a stamp
one of these days
perforated holes in-
between
the spaces on each sheet

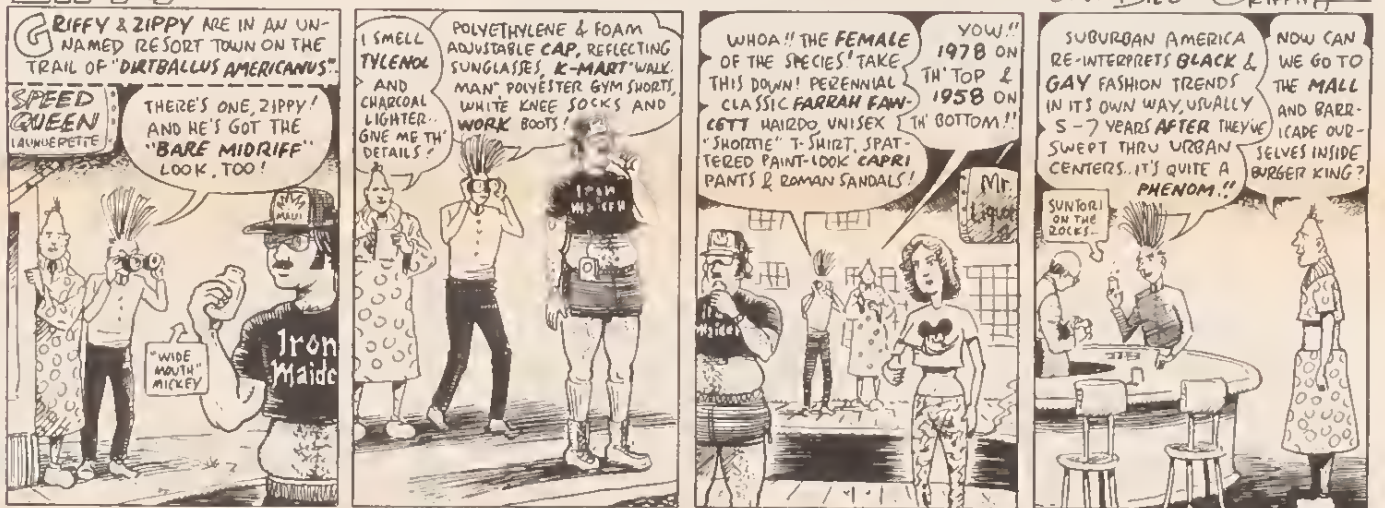
guess that's
the only way to
lick the
son-of-a-
bitch

—from Reagan Psalms
by A.D. Winans

ZIPPY

"OBSERVATION POINTS"

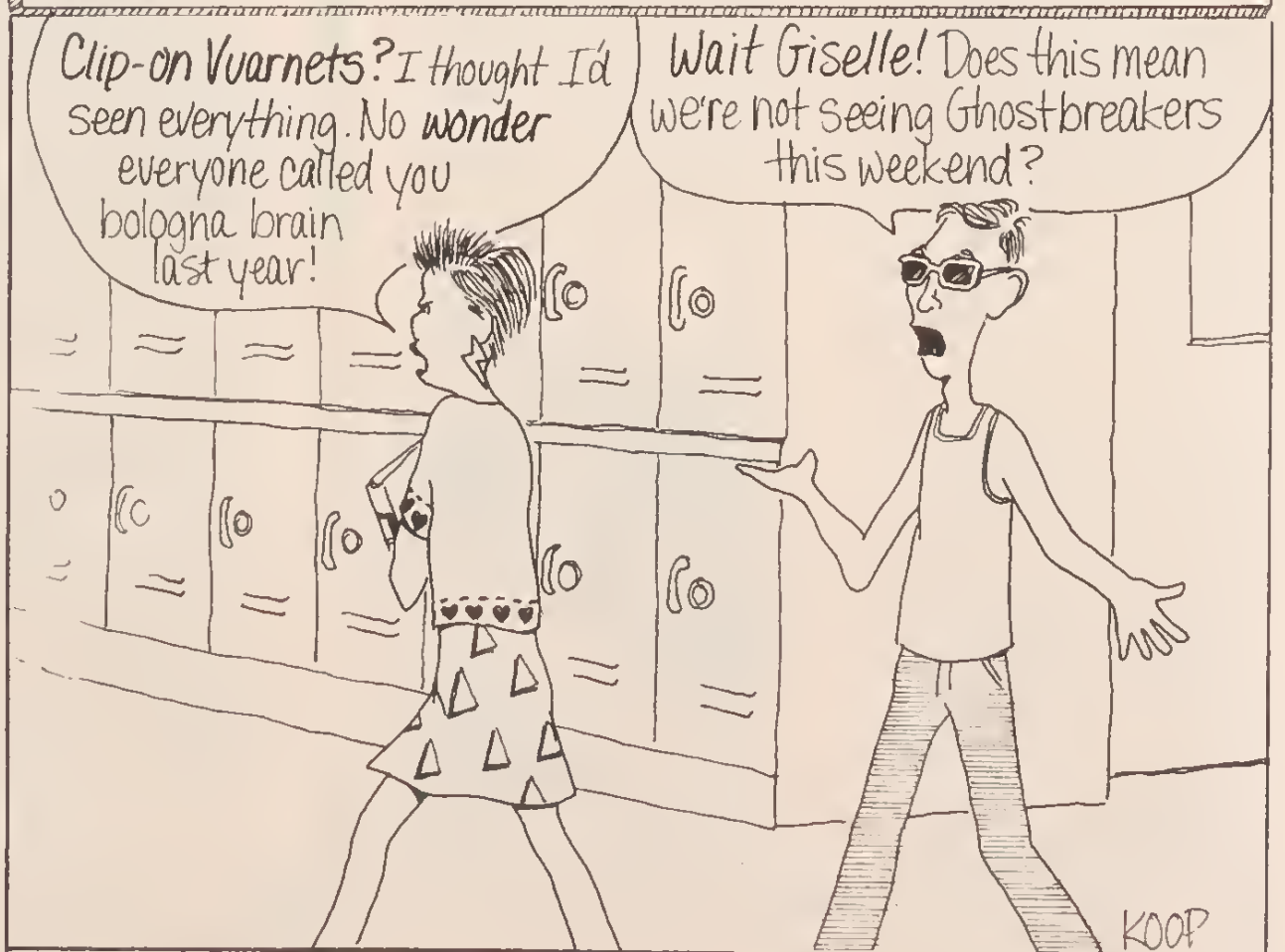
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Wait Giselle! Does this mean we're not seeing Ghostbreakers this weekend?



KOOP

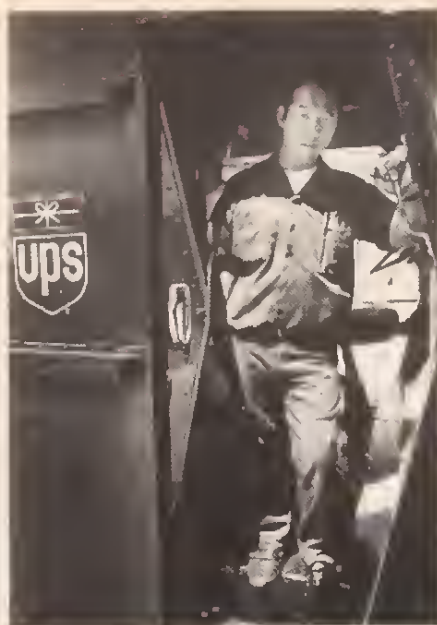
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Photos by
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And then the rain, like an earthquake approaching
From far off, like the deejay fading in a song.
The climax comes fast, the denouement.
This theatre of light makes my heart beat hard.
This night day night day night might last
Forever. It might be over in a minute.

The tower in the distance over Noe Valley, with its
Softly blinking red lights
Attracts the lightning. Lying here
All of a sudden I see the
Summer of 1953. A flash in the sky
Takes me back three decades, to when I
First saw a lightning bolt. I lay in a
Little bed, in a small room off the kitchen,
With brackish screens on the green-painted
Wood-framed summer house windows. I felt at 6
The way I feel at 37. Excited. Not at all afraid.
Exhilarated. Wanting to see more.
Lightning and darkening do the same things for me.

Aaah, there's a beauty, quivering,
Bringing on the deepest rumbles from the earth,
From the sky, from my soul.
Lightning and darkening, yinning and yanging,
Oh, how I do love the fit.

I'm glad I'm not in an aeroplane right now.
I'm glad I'm not out driving a car.
I'm glad I'm happy in my bed.
I'm glad for the relief, for the rumbles,
For the house shaking, for the cool air
Replacing the heat, the humidity of these strange days.
Lightning and darkening, hot front meets cold,
Explosions, incantations, strobes, probes,
Special effects, wet redwood decks.
I just let my nose take me where I goes.

Today was the day, first quarter of the moon,
When nothing goes as you expect. And sure enough,
The least likely weather is here. Never can I remember
Such a storm in San Francisco.
I have this sense about me,
Such a strong deja vu.
It's like I'm in New Jersey again, I said to the
Teller in the bank. Who needs it?
To step outside and be wet in a moment,
Sweating through my cotton teeshirt.
To have the crotch of my
Already too tight shorts sticking to me. Who needs it?

Aaah, there's a good one. Crash, crackle, bang,
Shake the house, where are the Germans?
Where are the air raid sirens? Run for the
Underground, or stay up here and watch the show.
The only thing, though, is you never know
When the intermission's coming.

—Ellen Trabilcy
9/19/84

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Meat Market Music: Uncommon Grounds

By Bill Yard

Among the dwindling number of 24th Street "institutions," the venerable Meat Market Coffeehouse perhaps best exemplifies the pre-gentrified personality of Noe Valley. It's appropriate, therefore, that the cafe's weekend live music series provides an oasis for the kind of sounds you don't hear in most clubs and concert halls.

On Friday and Saturday nights, the Meat Market offers a menu of music that's as diverse, spirited and inexpensive as its caffeinated fare. Jazz, bluegrass, chamber music, latin, swing, country and folk tunes from both sides of the Atlantic entertain patrons for the price of a cup of house coffee. The low, slightly overgrown table in the rear of the joint turns into a stage, and from 8 to 10 the musicians take over, blowing and singing for their supper and a pass of the hat.

Marguerite Millard, a former counterperson at the Meat Market who now performs there with partner Mike Statler, points out that the tips "are nothing to write home about." But she echoes the

sentiments of other performers: "The people listen, which is kind of unusual."

Saxophonist Jim Miller remembers that "it was delightful to see the faces on the regulars when I got up to play" for the first time. The customers were used to seeing Miller building lattes behind the counter, not wailing on a horn. A long-time cafe employee who's played several clubs around town, Miller takes the stage at the Meat Market on the fourth Saturday of each month with bassist John Clark and guitarist Larry Sep-
toff.

"I never thought I'd see the day I played the coffeehouse," Miller continued. "Then one time about a year ago I did it on a lark. I've been doing it about once a month ever since." Miller, like Millard, appreciates the cafe's "intimate environment." He has no trouble getting a regular booking there. "I know the manager of the place pretty well," he explained, the manager being his fiancée, master mocha maker Sherri Smith.

Smith has developed the music series both as an outlet for the artists and as "an alternative for people who like to listen to live music, but don't like the



Photo by Tom Wachs

A menagerie of musical entertainment in a wholesome environment awaits weekend visitors to the venerable Meat Market Coffeehouse on 24th Street near Castro.

smoky, hustling scene" in many clubs. She has fantasies of opening her own jazz place someday, but scheduling and promoting the Meat Market music takes a hack seat to her other duties as manager. "I have to tell myself I can't run around all week with flyers." She does list the shows in the *Music Calendar*, the Bay Area Jazz Society newsletter, and *Folknik*.

The music series is, in many respects, a homegrown cooperative scene. Besides

Smith, Miller and Millard, other contributors include Larry "Big Beard" Rippee, flyer illustrator and espresso pumper, and Smith's predecessor as manager, John Fisher, who built the stage before moving down the street to open Orpheus Leather.

For more information about the Meat Market's weekend music series, phone 285-5598. The coffeehouse is located just west of Little Italy on 24th Street near Castro. □

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—Space Invaders from Back East— Are They Here Yet?

By Barbara Van Kuyk

I'd been lobbying the airlines for months about their transcontinental fares. It infuriated me that an external body could control the union or separation of families just by adjusting its rates. My family lives in New York; my father is retired, my mother is a teacher. How would I ever keep them away if the airlines lowered their rates?

It was a harrowing spring. As I got wind of New York's 99 percent humidity, I tried to remember how many times I'd absently scrawled "P.S. You're always welcome" on the bottom of letters. I'd wake at night screaming, "No! I was wrong! There will be no Olympic games at Stanford, none!"

I had privately contracted a travel agent to keep me informed of the latest supersavers. I was at work when I got his call.

"\$220 round trip from Newark," he sang. "Will they be needing a rent-a-car?"

"Try a bus," I said, and hung up.

That evening I returned home with a six-pack, clawed open a Bud, gripped the arms of the chair, and flipped on my message machine.

"Barb!" It was Mom. "You won't believe it!" I advanced the tape. "... and the fares will only last for those 30 days."

Beep. "Eh—Bahbra? It's Dad. When did you get one of these machines?..."

Beep. "Hi, Barbara, it's your cousin Diana. Listen, I don't want to be too forward or anything, but..."

Beep. "Hi there, little sister! It's Madeline! Hey I was talking to Mom this morning, and..."

It continued. I finished the six-pack and marked my calendar. The first wave would rush the coast Aug. 5.

Guest-Ready maneuvers occupied me for the next four weeks. Borrowed sheets, sleeping bags, and folding chairs bulged from my closets. I scheduled vacation time, arranged for cat-sitting, froze meals, cancelled plans, and drank a good deal.

It all began rather routinely. Every time a relative dropped from the sky I'd run the neighborhood rounds: Dolores Street ("Palm trees!"), 22nd between Sanchez and Church ("Wow, lose your breaks on this street and you're dead meat"), and Twin Peaks (Inhale... "Oh my Gawd...").

Sidewalk traffic is a novelty to suburbanites, so we spent a lot of time on 24th Street. We also explored every Bay Area attraction from here to Napa Valley.

But it wears after two weeks plus. As promised, my 14-month-old niece could sleep through the night, but my sister couldn't sleep through the morning. She brought her Jane Fonda workout album and began thumping promptly at 8 a.m. My mother launched into an impervious Close The Refrigerator Door/Stop Teasing The Cat/Why Do You Have To Smoke campaign, and Uncle John kept trying to let himself into the wrong apartment.

Labor Day, Sept. 3, was to be the culmination of this family togetherness. My brother and his girlfriend managed to arrange a three-day stop in San Francisco en route to Hawaii, which brought the toll to eight. The day after would begin the exodus Back East.

Mom found leaving hard to accept. I heard her on the phone with a friend a

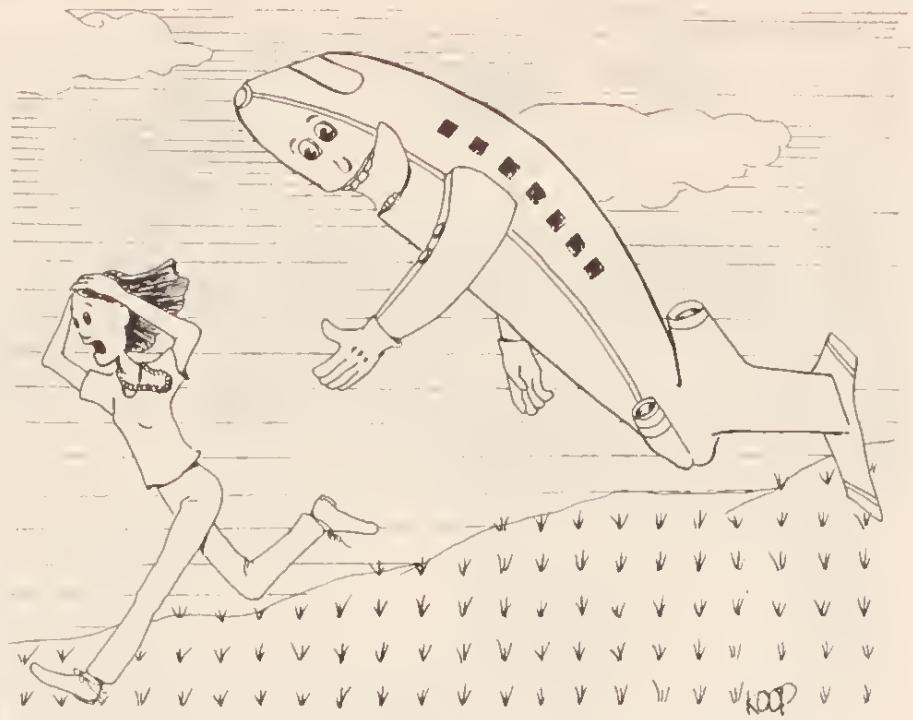


Illustration by Susan Koop

few days previous, mournfully arranging a ride home from the airport. Suddenly she shrieked.

"You're kidding! When did it start? And everybody's yelling and accusing? Is it really bad? Wonderful!"

She hung up and bounded into the kitchen.

"I can stay longer!" she shouted. "The teachers are on strike! There's no way they'll have a contract before October! We can go to Carmel!"

I choked on my yogurt and the phone rang. It was my father, calling to confirm his flight number and time.

"Sure, Dad," I said. "See you tonight."

Mom's face dropped.

"Your father's coming?"

"Well, just for a few days."

"Is that your mother there?" he shouted. I nodded to both and they sighed

in stereo. They'd been divorced for 17 years.

I over-invited for Labor Day to create a crowd of buffers. We grilled in the backyard and everyone ate too much. Dad went back to his hotel that night and my brother moved on to Hawaii. Mom learned that the teachers had negotiated and my sisters discussed moving to Palo Alto.

The next day the airport shuttling resumed and that night I was alone.

Everyone called when they got home. They arrived safely, they were tired, it was hot in New York.

"We miss you already," chimed Madeline and her husband on separate phone extensions.

"I know what you mean," I sighed, inhaling deeply on my Camel Light and folding my theater tickets into my coat pocket.

"I just can't wait till Christmas." □

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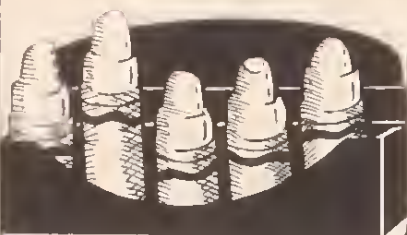
Photo by Charles Kennard



If Noe is a valley, why does it have so many hills? This photo was taken last spring looking north on Castro Street up to Alvarado Street.

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Across the Boards

A Shortcut Through Red Tape

By Barbara Van Kuyk

Editor's Note: The Community Boards Program provides free dispute resolution by trained volunteers in 20 San Francisco neighborhoods. The Eureka/Noe Valley office is located on Church Street near 24th; telephone 821-2470. The following is an account of an actual hearing before the local board; however, names and certain details have been changed to protect the participants' identity.

To the casual passerby wandering through scenic Diamond Heights, steep and rocky Windham Alley seems a welcome shortcut between homes. But to Joseph Pargret, whose house borders the city-owned path, the alley is a constant source of danger and worry, with its craggy overgrowth, broken glass, dilapidated steps and lack of railings.

Although the non-vehicular passage is city property, the city does not maintain it. A cross-wire fence was once constructed to serve as a barrier between the alley and the street, but Joseph observed that people only climbed over it, and the jagged wires created a more serious hazard. He replaced it with a wooden fence and had concrete steps built to provide a walkway to his garden. Joseph not only initiated this work—plus uprooting and removing trees damaged by storms—he paid for himself.

But that was years ago. The steps have now deteriorated to a point where they are in themselves dangerous, and the fence was blown down in a windstorm last December. With the walkway accessible to the public again, Joseph worried about someone getting injured, and even the remote possibility of his being held liable for it.

Joseph then contacted the city, which, he insisted, gave him "the run-around" for six months. By the time he spoke to Community Boards, he was angry and pessimistic about the problem.

"I don't see what's so difficult about the whole thing," he said. "It's their

land, they should maintain it. I'm not pouring any more money into it. They won't listen until someone breaks his neck on it."

Case developers met with Art Fields, the city agent who had been working on the Windham Alley problem.

"I know Mr. Pargret thinks I'm just a typical bureaucrat and that this is just a maze of red tape for no reason," Art explained. "But there's a lot more to it. I'm only one small part of this agency. The procedures are very involved and funding is no small matter." He said he would be happy to attend a panel hearing, but that Joseph and the panel had to understand that he could not speak for the city, though he would do all he could as an individual.

The hearing began slowly, with Joseph skeptical about the city's values and Art reluctant to agree to specifics without his supervisor's approval. However, the issues were clarified, and the process paved the way for a resolution.

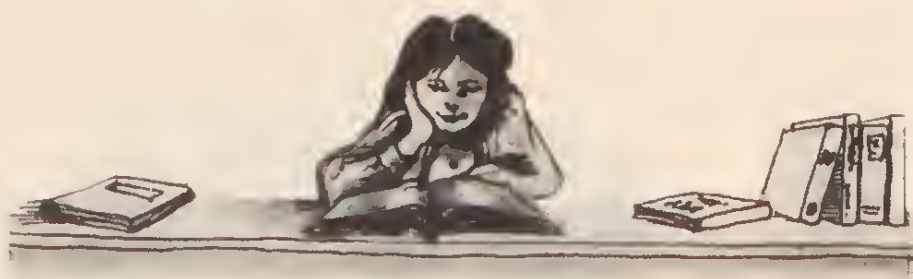
Art explained that a street must be brought up to certain standards before the city can accept it for maintenance and that Joseph needed to get a petition signed by the property owners whose buildings faced the alley. There would be a one-time assessment charge for the initial work, to be shared 50-50 by the home owners and the city, and paid for over a long period of time. He agreed to clearly outline the city's procedures and responsibilities for Joseph and the other property owners.

For his part, Joseph agreed to write and circulate the petition among the other owners, which would allow for assessment procedures to begin.

"I felt like I was grappling with a huge monster," said Joseph after the hearing. "At least now it's sized up and I can move in the right direction."

Art, too, felt relieved after the hearing.

"It's not often that people are willing to see the city agent's side of things," he said. "I really hope it can all work out." □



MORE BOOKS TO READ

The shelves at the Noe Valley Library are full to overflowing with new selections this month. Check 'em out at 451 Jersey St., Tuesday through Saturday.

Fiction

First Among Equals: a Novel—Jeffrey Archer
Golgotha Falls: a Novel—Frank De Felitta
The Outsider—Howard Fast
Something Out There—Nadine Gordimer
The Walking Drum—Louis L'Amour
The Miko—Eric Van Lustbader
Tough Guys Don't Dance—Norman Mailer
High Command: a Novel—John Masters
The Dossier—Pierre Salinger
Murder on Embassy Row—Margaret Truman

Non-Fiction

The Wonderful World of Superstition, Prophecy and Luck—Leonard N. Ashley
Stairway Walks in San Francisco—Adah Bakalinsky
With a Daughter's Eye: A Memoir of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson—Mary Catherine Bateson
"The Rest of Us": the Rise of America's Eastern European Jews—Stephen Birmingham
Goddesses in Everywoman: a New Psychology of Women—Jean Shinoda Bolen
Diane Arbus: a Biography—Patricia Bosworth
The Traveler's Guide to European Customs & Manners—Nancy L. Braganti & Elizabeth Devine
The Two of Physics: an Exploration of the Parallels Between Modern Physics and Eastern Mysticism—Fritjof Capra
America's Quest for the Ideal Self: Dissent and Fulfillment in the '60s and '70s—Peter Clecak
Past Imperfect: an Autobiography—Joan Collins

Writing Woman: Women Writers and Women in Literature, Medieval to Modern—Sheila Delany

Jack Nicholson: a Biography—David Downing

The F-Plan Diet—Audrey Eyton

An American Procession: the Major American Writers from 1830 to 1930, the Crucial Century—Alfred Kazin

Music in Every Room: Around the World in a Bad Mood—John Krich

The 100 Best Companies to Work for in America—Robert Levering et al

Make Your Point: a Guide to Improving Your Business and Technical Writing—Michael Markel

The New Oxford Book of Canadian Verse in English—Margaret Atwood, ed.

New Hope for Binge Eaters. Bulimia, the Secret Epidemic—Harrison Pope

California Classics: the Creative Literature of the Golden State: Essays on the Books and Their Writers—Lawrence Clark Powell

Chef Paul Prudhomme's Louisiana Kitchen—Paul Prudhomme

A Very Private Eye: an Autobiography in Diaries and Letters—Barbara Pym

Silicon Valley Fever: Growth of High-Technology Culture—Everett M. Rogers & Judith K. Larsen

The Nicaragua Reader. Documents of a Revolution Under Fire—Peter Rosset & John Vandermeer, eds.

At Seventy: a Journal—May Sarton

Intimate Memoirs: Including Marie-Jo's Book—George Simenon

Tahoe: an Environmental History—Douglas H. Strong

Sunset Kitchens. Planning and Remodeling—editors of Sunset Books and Sunset Magazine

Cal, a Guide to the World's Largest University and the Bay Area—Steven Warshaw

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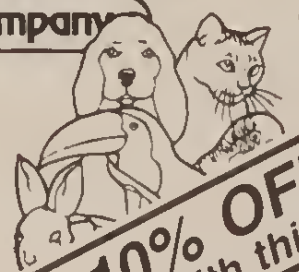
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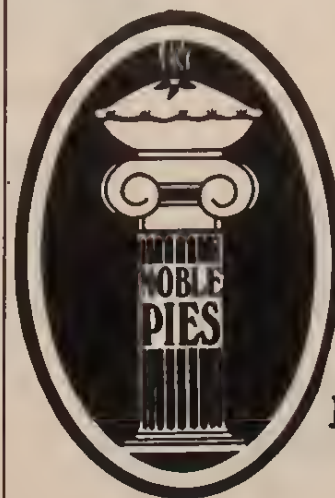
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By Mazook

'TIS THE SEASON FOR POLITICAL FOOTBALL, so the *Voice* decided to conduct a presidential poll at James Lick Middle School on Sept. 19. Members of Henry King's eighth-grade social studies class were asked to write their responses to the question: "If the election were held today, who would you vote for for President of the United States, and why?"

The class voted decisively: Walter Mondale, 25; Ronald Reagan, 5! The reasons these nascent social scientists gave for their choice were . . . well . . . quite poignant.

Writes Tauchia Cobbins, age 12: "I would vote for Mondale. Mondale wasn't my first choice, Jesse Jackson was, but now Mondale is my only hope for reaching my 18th birthday."

Shirley (no last name given), 13, went right to the point: "I would vote for Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro because they're trying to help the people in poverty and not the people who are living like kings and queens . . . [Mondale] also disagrees with the idea about having a nuclear war."

However, Joey Lopez, 13, looks at it another way. "I would vote for Ronald Reagan. One reason is he is strong. Countries won't attack us knowing we will strike back. Mondale keeps putting down Reagan so many times I don't know what Mondale stands for."

Derrick, 13, agrees. "I would vote for Reagan because I think he is running this country pretty good."

Adam, 13, wrote only: "I'd vote for the Mondale-Ferraro ticket because Ronald Reagan is intent on ruling the world."

Leif Sarlya, 13, wants Mondale, too. "The biggest reason is that over the last four years President Reagan didn't do anything for me, and I think anything is better than him."

Ablan Roblin, 13, summed up his feelings on the issue rather dramatically. "I would vote for Mondale-Ferraro. Mondale is more for the common man and I like that. The talk about Ferraro this, Ferraro that, doesn't mean a thing to me. They're just trying anything to stop Ferraro because she's a woman. Reagan is more for the rich. He hasn't really helped us at all the past four years, and is about ready to retire. I feel Mondale is the right man and should win."

Reminds me of the sobering words of British novelist James M. Barrie: "I am not young enough to know everything."

☎ ☎ ☎

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Once upon a time there were 100% cotton long-sleeved shirt-and-pant outfits. They were specially made for all good infants and toddlers. The shirts had beads on them and the pants were splashed with magical porridge drops. So the grownups wouldn't feel left out, matching adult-sized 50% cotton t-shirts were made too. Lovingly silkscreened in 5 colors on white, the shirts and pants allowed everyone who wore them to live happily ever after. The end

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news



Photo by Irene Kane

Rumormonger turns pollster as the *Voice's* Mazook quizzes kids at James Lick about their presidential preference. The results may surprise you.

SPEAKING of James Lick, the sixth annual New York City Street Games were held on the school's playground Sept. 16. "We originally picked Lick," says games organizer and heavy-duty New Yorker Muriel Kroll, "because it most resembles New York—very urban." Muriel is proud that "80 people attended the first year, over 700 last year, and we think well over 1,000 this year." Nathan's, the hotdog people, and Carvel Ice Cream makers chipped in several thousand dollars this year for ads in the *Chronicle/Examiner*, giving a real boost to the day. Some of the more popular games were patsy, boxball, egg box marbles, skully, giant steps, off the wall, stoopball, and, of course, stickball. For all you trivia buffs, what do they call those little pink balls used in many of the games? Answer: Spaldeens. Spaldeens, by the way, are an endangered species since the Spalding Company has stopped manufacturing them. The NYC games people are circulating a petition of protest to send to Spalding.

☎ ☎ ☎

STREET FAIR SCUTTLEBUTT. Without a doubt the most successful concession at the Noe Valley Merchants Association's sweltering street fair Sept. 9

was the snow cone booth. Merchants President John (Mr. Panos) Gianaras called the event "most successful." John beamed, "There were no problems, no fights, the monitors and clean-up crew from Jamestown Community Center were great. Even the police shook our hands when it was all over."

According to John, the fair netted about \$7,000, which will be used to purchase Christmas decorations and music for downtown Noe Valley and make sure Santa sees his way clear to 24th Street for this year's festivities. Hats off to Larry Walker (Noe Valley Music) for putting together 18 dynamite bands, who performed without a hitch. (A special crowd-stopper and -pleaser along the route was the Danny Kalb Blues Band.)

☎ ☎ ☎

NEWS NOTES. It looks like the Acme deck and its neighbors are back before the planning commission. Apparently, Acme owner Joel Coopersmith has requested that he not have to carpet the deck or move his bussing station inside. Noise-conscious neighbors are insisting otherwise.

Rumor has it that William Ver Brugge has decided not to reopen his famed meat

market on the property he owns next to Bell Market.

Meanwhile, Meat Market Coffee-house manager Sherri Smith will soon marry her right-hand coffee man Jim Miller. Lattés forever.

In an unrelated item, Dan's Gas and Diesel, downtown Noe Valley's only service station, is now closed on Saturdays as well as Sundays. You'll have to roll the boat down 24th Street to Valencia for that weekend refill.

Yet another business, this one called Computer Graphics, will give it a try in the Noe Valley Mall. If you want to find out why "pixels" are replacing pencils, here's your chance.

Watch the corner of 25th and Castro Streets (1500 Castro) for the opening of 25th Street Workout, Noe Valley's first fitness center. Recreational therapist Charles Morganstern plans to build an "aerobics center with workout equipment," offering special classes for the disabled and aged, as well as for those regular sweatshops among us.

Noe Vatteons Susan and Richard Gratian will open a children's clothing shop called Smallfrys in the 24th Street storefront vacated by A Different Point of View. Susan promises "affordable prices" and vows to open the shop by Thanksgiving.

Thanks to the East and West of Castro Improvement Club, we can now sit down at the corner of 24th and Diamond (in front of the laundromat): the group donated a new bench to the bus stop.

It might be hard to get a seat at Noe's Oct. 18. It's rumored that the bar will host a private party (for women only) featuring male strippers.

☎ ☎ ☎

GOOD NEWS for those Glen Park residents who slept with a baseball bat by their beds all summer out of fear of the "hot prowler" burglar. There have been no more such hurglaries in the area since July 27.

On the international front, Noe Valley poet Gwen Carmen traveled to Germany last month to give support to the women of Greenham Common, who were staging a protest against the NATO war games. After Germany Gwen planned to do a series of poetry readings in Holland and England.

Other recent Noe Valley expatriates are Bob and Joy Biderman. (Bob wrote the anti-war novel *Letters to Nanette*.) The Bidermans have moved to Cambridge, England.

Last but not least is this month's Noe Valley trivia question: who was James Lick anyway? Bye, kids. □

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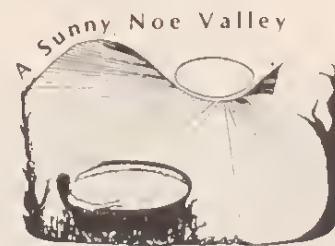
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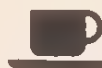
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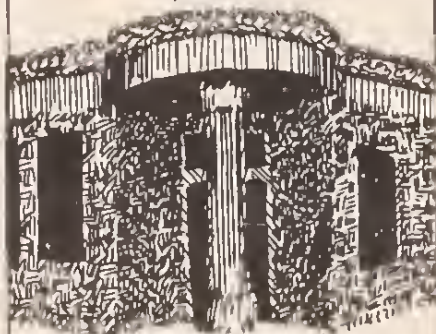
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CALENDAR

OCT. 1-31: PHOTO EXHIBIT by Keith Holmes and Paul Miller highlighting direct tactics against nuclear war. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. Closing reception: Oct. 25, 5-7 p.m. 282-9246

OCT. 1-31: PAINTINGS by Becky Edwards and Mimi Herrera. The Farm Gallery, 1499 Potrero Ave. at Army. Opening reception Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m. 826-4290

OCT. 3: "ALL OUT FOR INTERVENTION," a satirical campaign rally to re-elect Reagan sponsored by Casa El Salvador. Gather at 10 a.m. at Union Square for parade down Market. Rally at noon at Union Square with the Plutonium Players, Ladies Against Women, the Wallflower Dance Collective, and the Gay Guerrillas

OCT. 3: TOWN HALL meeting sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7-9 p.m. All welcome

OCT. 3: Begins a class entitled "PILGRIMAGE HOME," an experience of contemplation in a group. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7-45 p.m. 282-2317

OCT. 4: JEFF JAWER, astrologer, lectures on "The Moon and the Search for the Feminine." The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 8 p.m. 641-1753

OCT. 4: Presbyterians for LESBIAN/GAY CONCERNS gather to discuss "Religious Issues '84." Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 469-2204 or 431-6548

OCT. 4: Introductory training session for new volunteers. Mission District COMMUNITY BOARDS program. 7:30 p.m. Call 821-2467 for location.

OCT. 5-7: Three-day FESTIVAL OF FRIENDSHIP at St. Paul's Parish, featuring booths, ethnic foods, prizes, and fun. 29th and Church Streets. Oct. 5, 7-11 p.m.; Oct. 6, 1-11 p.m.; Oct. 7, 1-9 p.m. Dinner served Oct. 7, 3-7 p.m. 585-9757

OCT. 5, 12, 19: BAY AREA SOCIALIST SCHOOL presents three forums: "Butchers, Bakers and Candlestick Makers: Baseball in the Bay Area" with Jules Tygiel (Oct. 5), a book party featuring *Accumulation Crisis* by James O'Connor (Oct. 12), "Burning Times" and the war against the earth, with David Kubrin (Oct. 19). Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 221-3333, ext. 153

OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26: NOE VALLEY CINEMA presents "Metropolis" directed by Fritz Lang (Oct. 5), "Battle of San Pietro," directed by John Houston, and "Night and Fog" by Alan Resnais (Oct. 12), "Key Largo," starring Bogart and Bacall, and "Special Delivery" (Oct. 19); "Flash Gordon" and "Hardware Wars" (Oct. 26), costumes encouraged. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m.

OCT. 5-27: MEET THE CO-OP premiere exhibit by members of the new Vida Gallery Women's Co-op. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Opening reception Oct. 5, 7-9 p.m. 864-VIDA.



OCT. 6: RUMMAGE SALE sponsored by St. James Parish. Jamestown Community Center, 180 Fair Oaks St. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OCT. 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27: October line-up for MUSIC AT THE MEAT MARKET COFFEEHOUSE. "Snooze-u-Looze" bluegrass (Oct. 6); Ed Lynch and Irish folk (Oct. 12), "Out of the Rain," music from the British Isles (Oct. 13), Canta Tierra, a Latin American duo (Oct. 19), folk with Marguerite Millard and Mike Statler (Oct. 20), Duo D'elice chamber music (Oct. 26), jazz with the Jim Miller Trio (Oct. 27). 4123 24th St. 8-10 p.m. 285-5598

OCT. 6-7: GARAGE SALE to benefit S.F. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. 3962 18th St. at Noe. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 861-0425

OCT. 6, 13: "FACING OUR FUTURE," skill-building program for women ages 35 to 55 sponsored by Options for Women Over Forty. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 431-6405

OCT. 6, 20: WALKING TOURS of the Mission District murals with an introductory slide talk. Precita Eyes Mural Center, 348 Precita Ave. 1:30 p.m. 285-2287

OCT. 6 - NOV. 18: Gallery Sanchez' AUTUMN ANNUAL EXHIBIT featuring Noe Valley and Mission neighborhood artists. 1021 Sanchez St. Reception Oct. 14, 2-5 p.m. Regular gallery hours 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mon.-Fri. 282-2317.

OCT. 7: PANDIT PRAN NATH, North Indian vocalist, performs morning, afternoon and evening ragas. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 8 p.m. 863-9834

OCT. 7: POTLUCK BARBEQUE SUNDAY sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley. Come meet your neighbors at the Noe Valley Library deck, 451 Jersey St. Noon. 285-5289

OCT. 7: Benefit for supervisorial candidate PAT NORMAN at Great American Music Hall featuring Bobby McFerrin, the Linda Tillery Band and dancer Ed Mock. 859 O'Farrell St. 8 p.m. 621-1780

OCT. 7: DOOR-TO-DOOR voter registration sponsored by the S.F. Freeze and the Bay Area Central America Peace Campaign. Meet at Most Holy Redeemer School, 117 Diamond at 18th, 3 p.m. 864-5955

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28: ENTERTAINMENT AT EL RIO: Afro-Cuban music with Conjunto Cespedes (Oct. 7), Ethno Rock (Oct. 14), sixth anniversary party with the Melotones and Viva Brasil (Oct. 21), salsa, funk and jazz with Tropical Nights (Oct. 28). 3158 Mission St. 4-8 p.m. except for Oct. 21, 2-9 p.m. 282-3325

OCT. 8: Begins eight-week class entitled TOOLS FOR POLITICAL THINKING, with Margo Adair. 861-6838 for details

OCT. 8, 22: MONDAY NIGHT POETRY SERIES: Tallulah Lapides and Louis Eisner (Oct. 8); Zenzile and Lisa Manning (Oct. 22). Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246

OCT. 9: Introductory training session for new volunteers of Eureka and Noe Valley COMMUNITY BOARDS program. 7:30 p.m. Call 821-2470 for location

OCT. 9: LILITH women's theater performs "Fetal Positions," a play about women's choices, at the National Festival of Women's Theatre in Santa Cruz. Loudon Nelson Community Center, 301 Center St. 9:15 p.m. 861-4221

OCT. 10: FILMS FOR CHILDREN, 10 and 11 a.m. for preschoolers: "Where the Wild Things Are," "Pierre," "The Haf," and "Happy Owls." 3:30 p.m. for school-age children: "The Snowman" and "Rapunzel." Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th St. 824-2810

OCT. 10-13: BETSY KAGAN combines dance, theater and music in a performance of repertory work and world premieres. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 8:30 p.m. 863-9834

OCT. 10, 17: BASIC RECORDKEEPING and tax information seminar taught by Jan Zobel. Held near Dolores Park. 7-9 p.m. 821-1015

OCT. 11: TWILIGHT TALES: LESBIAN PAPERBACKS 1950-1965. Slideshow documenting the birth of the lesbian pulp novel. Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675

OCT. 13: STREET TREE-PLANTING workshop sponsored by S.F. Friends of the Urban Forest. Held in the horticulture classroom, S.F. City College, Ocean Avenue at Phelan. 9 a.m. to noon. 543-5000

OCT. 13: THE MARK LEVINE QUINTET plays the Noe Valley Music Series. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m.

OCT. 13: CHILDREN'S DANCE WORKSHOP, taught by Shasha Yovanopoulos, begins at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Preschoolers, 1-2 p.m.; ages 6-10, 2-3 p.m.; ages 10 and up, 3-4 p.m. 826-5886

OCT. 13: DENISE FERRY, ARLENE HAMILTON and ORA HATHEWAY, Native American organizers, lead a discussion on survival issues. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246

OCT. 15, 16: Beginning dates for two classes sponsored by the BAY AREA SOCIALIST SCHOOL. "GRAMSCI for Beginners" with Mel Pritchard (Oct. 15), "History of Philosophy from a Left Perspective" with Jim Syfers. Rank and File Center, 1781 Church St. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 221-3333, ext. 153

OCT. 15 - DEC. 15: MAKE-A-CIRCUS offers classes in circus and variety arts. The Farm, Army and Potrero. 776-8477

OCT. 16: Beginning INVESTMENT WORKSHOP for women. 1-4 p.m. Call 587-7210 for details

OCT. 17: DISCUSSION of "Post-Capitalist Societies Since Brezhnev: A Comparative Study" with Tim Wohlforth. Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 221-3333, ext. 153

OCT. 17-20: Activist dancer/choreographer LIZ LERMAN presents "Nine Short Dances on the Defense Budget." New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 8:30 p.m. 863-9834

OCT. 20: CLEAN-UP DAY at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 10 a.m. 282-2317

OCT. 20-21, 27-28: OPEN STUDIO reception for artists John Luikala and Harry Weisburd, featuring dance imagery in painting, collage and sculpture, and new large orchid series. Art Dancing, 1354 Castro (at Jersey). 282-2281

OCT. 21: ORGAN RECITAL with James Welch. Music of Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Boely and Mendelssohn. The Church of Saint John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St. 4 p.m. 861-1436

OCT. 21: SANCTUARY CHURCH SUNDAY. Featured guests will be representatives of the Sanctuary Church movement. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Worship service, 10 a.m.

OCT. 23: DISCUSSION of the crisis in El Salvador and the upcoming elections, sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. Mission Community Center, 362 Capp St. 7:30 p.m. 861-0425

OCT. 25: READING AND CELEBRATION of the first issue of *Feminary*. Especially for women. Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675

OCT. 26: Renowned poet and publisher LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI presents his new book, *Seven Days in Nicaragua Libre*. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-92246

OCT. 26: POETRY READING with C Robyn Hunt, John S. Selby and Jack Trainer. Clarion Cafe, 2118 Mission St. 8:30 p.m. 282-2207

OCT. 27: "Applied Meditation," introductory WORKSHOP with Margo Adair. 861-6838

OCT. 27: RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For rummage donations, call 282-2317

OCT. 27-28: Fourth annual San Francisco CHILDREN'S FAIR, featuring costume parade, slippery slide, juggling, puppet and magic shows, arts and crafts, and a hands-on computer. Ft. Mason Center, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OCT. 28: An evening of Edgar Allan Poe PERFORMANCE PIECES, with Sally Abbott and Kush. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 648-7928 or 824-2069

OCT. 28: TEA DANCE for lesbians over 60 and their women friends. S.F. Home Health Service, 225 30th St. 3-6 p.m. 626-7000

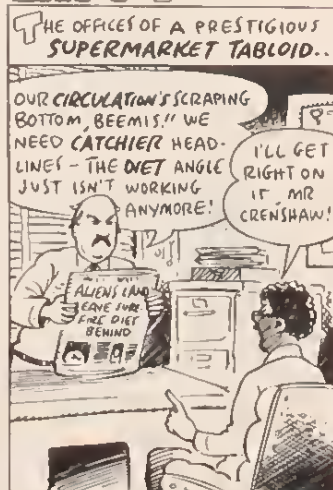
OCT. 29: Evangel King presents OUTBACK, a program combining dance, nursery rhymes and haunting memories. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 8:30 p.m. 863-9834

OCT. 30: HALLOWEEN crafts and stories for school-age children. Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th St. 3:30 p.m. 824-2810

OCT. 31: Fourth annual FUN AND SAFE HALLOWEEN program, sponsored by a coalition of neighborhood organizations at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Haunted House open from 4-5:30 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Children's and Parents' Costume Parade starts 5:30 p.m., 1021 Sanchez St. 285-2648

OCT. 31: HAUNTED HOUSE for kids 5 through 12. Jamestown Community Center, 180 Fair Oaks St. at 23rd. 6-9 p.m. 647-6274

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The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority.